

**A MEETING OF STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL
WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 11th APRIL 2023 AT 7.00PM
AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, STRETTON**

The following members of the Council were present:

Cllr J McKiernan	Chair
Cllr K Winson	Vice Chair
Cllr M Goode	
Cllr E Pritchard	
Cllr M Low	

Also present was the clerk and members of the public.

1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

2223-161 A member of the public asked what the Parish Council provided for the £48 per year that she was paying towards the Parish Council. The member of the public commented on the Carousel Horses that were bid for and that if not going into school you are unable to see one of the horses. Cllr Pritchard informed that 2 of the Carousel Horses had been obtained at the charity auction with all proceeds going to a local mental health charity. One horse will be displayed in the Priory Centre when a suitable area is found and the other is at the school which is opposite the former residence of George Orton (Orton & Spooner themed event)

The member of the public also remarked on the level of anti-social behaviour; that the Priory Centre was not being used properly as a community hub and place where young people could meet and that the noticeboards were not kept up to date.

The Chair replied that the Parish Council were responsible for maintaining areas of land within the Parish – Jinny Nature Trail, Bitham Community Park, Jubilee Playing Field, Woodland Walk, Station Walk and others. Not only are all the areas kept clean and safe work is done to increase biodiversity and bird life.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council controls what it is permitted to control and influences other areas/issues where it is possible such as highway and planning issues. If and when parishioners ask the Parish Council does what it can to oblige which is not always possible.

The Parish Council publishes what it needs to and where it is legally bound to, but this can be expanded.

The Chair informed that the Parish Council questions and complains about local issues but does so in the background to keep Stretton a good place to live. It is hoped that parishioners will also make the necessary complaints to highlight problems.

A member of the public advised that they had come across the meeting date on Facebook and that communication on noticeboards should be improved.

Another member of the public advised of some of the issues surrounding Hurst Drive and Hillfield Lane. These have been reported to the relevant authority for action.

2. APOLOGIES

2223-162 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lamb and also SCC Cllr Peters.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

2223-163 The Chair declared he had an allotment and would not participate with Item 2223-173.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING TUESDAY 7th MARCH 2023

2223-164 The circulated minutes were approved as a true and accurate record following a proposal from Cllr Pritchard and seconded by Cllr Winson with all present in favour.

5. ACTIONS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2223-165 A copy of the action update had been circulated prior to the meeting.

	REFERENCE	ACTION POINT	FOR WHOM	ACTION TAKEN
1	2223-035	William Shrewsbury Grave	Clerk / Cllr Pritchard	St Mary's Church contacted and given approval. Archdeacon advised faculty required – application submitted. Quote for work obtained
2	2223-114	New technology and document sharing	Clerk	Ongoing - purchased Action closed
3	2223-115	Replacement play equipment	Clerk	Meeting scheduled for January with Wicksteed - purchased awaiting date for installation
4	2223-110	Remuneration Committee	Chair	Arrange a meeting - see agenda item
5	2223-132	Speed Awareness Signs	Clerk	Insurance have agreed claim and paid for new unit/panel Post had been moved by SSW and has now been repositioned New unit fitted - data available Action Closed A copy of the downloaded data from the signs was circulated for information.
6	2223-132	Exterior Painting	Clerk	Quotation obtained - awaiting start date
7	2223-134	Floodlight Maintenance	Clerk	Order placed for service - completed Action Closed
8	2223-153	Tree removal works adjacent to Beech Avenue	Clerk	Letter sent to address supplied No response received

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

2223-166 Mrs J Hunt – Land Auction. The Clerk advised that a piece of land near to the Poultry Farm on Forge Lane had been sold at auction and that a neighbour had enquired if the Stretton Neighbourhood Plan (areas of identified protected open space) would prevent the owner from being given planning permission to develop. The Clerk advised that there were certain conditions contained in the document and that she had replied to the neighbour that representation using the Plan could be made but the ultimate decision would be for the Planning Authority.

7. REPORTS BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS, EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS AND STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE.

2223-167 The Clerk advised that ESBC Cllr Lamb had informed that ESBC were continuing to pursue the land issues at Glamis Close. The Clerk had asked for the contact at ESBC when ESBC Cllr Lamb leaves the council.

8. DATE TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

2223-168 The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00pm at the Priory Centre.

9. END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS APPROVAL

2223-169 The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure, Bank Reconciliation and Supporting Statement Sheet of the Year End Accounts prior to the meeting. Risk and asset documentation was also circulated for review. A copy of the council detail budget report for the year had also been circulated.

Cllr K Winson proposed acceptance of the documents, seconded by Cllr M Low with all present in favour. The Clerk and Chair to sign the appropriate sheets.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

2223-170 A copy of the plan had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Goode commented on the high level risk identified for covering of the Clerk and Centre Manager due to illness and the Clerk advised that this needed to be explored.

Councillors unanimously approved the risk management plan.

11. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTING REPORT 2022/23

2223-171 The Clerk had circulated a copy of Section 1 of the Return – Annual Governance Statement including explanatory notes and explained the sections for compliance.
Cllr K Winson proposed approval of the Governance Statement Sheet, seconded by Cllr M Low with all present in favour. The Clerk and Chair to sign the declaration.

The Clerk had circulated a copy of Section 2 of the Return – Accounting Statements 2022/23 prior to the meeting.

Cllr K Winson proposed approval of the statement and figures, seconded by Cllr M Low with all present in favour. The Clerk and Chair to sign the declaration.

12. ANALYSIS OF BUDGET AGAINST ACTUAL SPEND

2223-172 The Clerk had circulated a copy of the final budget cost centres prior to the meeting and then the following analysis of areas of significant over/underspend against the budget.

INCOME

Interest	Interest rate increases have resulted in more interest received
Other Income	Insurance claim for speed sign / WI tree / Condition survey contribution

EXPENDITURE

Salaries / PAYE/NI /Pension	Under estimated budget headings
IT Costs	Equipment upgrade
Jinny Trail	Tree work – additional work required on fallen trees
	Professional help – not required in the year
	Painting – work not undertaken – move to 2023/24
Woodland	Over budgeted – work not required
Projects	Contingency – wrongly coded
	Speed awareness overspend – insurance claim for amount overspent
Bitham	Painting – not undertaken – move to 2023/24
Jubilee (Hillfield)	Maintenance – hedgelaying not included in budget
	No reseeding undertaken
	Play equipment did not require any attention
	Over estimated cleaning of changing rooms
	Floodlight maintenance – 2023/24
Open Spaces	Bin replacement in contingency
	Over estimated contractor budget
	Machines did not require a lot of maintenance
Green Spaces	Additional planting and works on Millen Garden
	Orchard works at Beech Lane

There were no additional queries raised.

Cllr K Winson took the Chair for the next item due to a declared interest by the Chair.

13. ANNUAL REVIEW OF RENT ON LEASES

2223-173 The Clerk informed that both the Bowls Club lease and Allotment lease were to be reviewed annually with the RPI for February. The RPI for February 2023 was 13.8% which would be an increase of £84.54 (£697.17) for the Bowls Club and £4.25 (£35.06) for the Allotments.

Cllr K Winson proposed not to implement an increase this year due to freezing the precept and higher cost of living, seconded by Cllr M Goode and carried unanimously (apart from Cllr McKiernan who was unable to vote)

The Chair returned to officiate for the remainder of the meeting.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING MATTERS

2223-174 The Clerk had circulated a register of valid planning applications with status, prior to the meeting, for consideration.

The Clerk to check the application for The Precinct to ensure that any trees removed are replaced.

15. FINANCE

2223-175 A copy of the payment schedule below was circulated at the meeting and payments were approved unanimously following a proposal by Cllr Goode and seconded by Cllr Low

	Transaction	Description	Payment
BAC110323	Netwise	Upgrade hosting package	£11.21
BAC120323	Netwise	Website, domain and hosting	£681.60
BAC130323	TWM	Speed sign and panel installation	£3,719.80
BAC140323	BHIB	Insurance for ride on mower	£480.59
BAC150323	Currys Business	Tablets	£3,303.47
BAC160323	C Allen	Salary	£1,120.25
BAC170323	A J Smith	Salary and reimbur	£2,441.85
BAC180323	HMRC	PAYE / NI Conts	£1,051.00
DD	The Peoples Pension	Pension Conts	£478.24
DD	BrightPay	Payroll software 2023/24	£82.80
BAC010423	Rainbow Waste	Wheelie bin and empty	£302.23
BAC020423	SPCA	Annual Subscription	£847.66
BAC030423	G C McCulloch	Litterpicking	£499.00
BAC040423	Firs Farm Nursery	Holly plants Bitham and hedging	£441.60
BAC050423	C Winson	General Maint	£2,100.00
BAC060423	Halliday Lighting	Service of floodlights	£1,428.14
BAC070423	Boston Seeds	Wildflower Seed	£151.00
DD	Right Fuel Card	Fee	£2.40
DD	BT	Tele and BB	£77.24
DD	EDF Energy	Electric Changing Rooms	£100.50
DD	EDF Energy	Electric Floodlights	£94.77

16. COUNCILLOR / CLERK ITEMS

2223-176 The Clerk advised that Cllr Tilley will have completed 20 years on the Parish Council when he leaves in May 2023. It was unanimously agreed to obtain a gift in recognition and invite Cllr Tilley to the May meeting to present the item.

The Clerk circulated an email from Anglesey Parish Council regarding the number of casual vacancies on local Parish Councils following the nomination process for the May elections. The suggestion was to form a working party to discuss ideas to recruit councillors and training. Councillors present agreed to express an interest in being part of this group.

Councillors discussed ways of advertising the vacancies and it was agreed to have a poster at the Priory Centre entrance on polling day and also advertising via posters and flyers locally.

SIGNATURE

DESIGNATION

DATE